

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /114 W

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R 012019Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2869

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 1843

DEPT PASS IF DESIRED TO LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN CAPITALS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OCON XM

SUBJECT: CALVANI'S POST-MORTEM REFLECTIONS ON MEXICO CITY CONFERENCE

1. DURING MY CALL ON FONMIN CALVANI YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, ON WHICH OCCASION I LEFT HIM THE TEXT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LETTER OF FEBRUARY 27, HE EXPRESSED GENERAL SATISFACTION AT THE OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE OF TLATELOLCO. HE SAID HIS OWN VIEWS WERE CLEARLY SET FORTH IN THE EPILOGUE SPEECH WHICH HE MADE ON FEBRUARY 23, OF WHICH HE GAVE ME A COPY.

2. CALVANI DWELT MOSTLY ON MATTERS OF PROCEDURE. HE SAID FRANKLY THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WERE GREATLY UPSET ON EVE OF CONFERENCE ON READING THE TEXT OF A DOCUMENT PREPARED BY OUR EMBASSY IN MEXICO SETTING FORTH OUR PRELIMINARY IDEAS (AS AGREED ON FOLLOWING RABASA'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON JANUARY 31) ON FORMAT OF THE FIRST DAY'S PLENARY SESSION. ACCORDING TO CALVANI, MINISTERS WERE IRKED AT WHAT THEY CONSTRUED TO BE AMERICAN DICTATION. HOWEVER, HIS PRINCIPAL IRE SEEMED TO BE RESERVED FOR RABASA HIMSELF, WHOM HE CRITICIZED FOR MALADROITNESS IN INSISTING ON THE PRECEDENCE OF SPEAKERS AT THE FIRST PLENARY AND FOR HIS LATER INSISTENCE ON PRODUCING THE FINAL ACT OF TLATELOLCO SEVERAL DAYS AFTER

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THE CONFERENCE HAD OFFICIALLY ENDED.

3. IT WAS CLEAR FROM CALVANI'S REMARKS THAT IF THERE WERE INDEED A "CONFRONTATION" AT MEXICO CITY, IT WAS BETWEEN THE LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS THEMSELVES AND NOT BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND SECRETARY KISSINGER. CALVANI WAS WARM IN HIS PRAISE OF THE SECRETARY BOTH FOR HIS IMMENSE SKILL AS A NEGOTIATOR AND FOR THE CLARITY OF HIS THINKING. HE WAS ALSO DEEPLY TOUCHED BY THE FACT THAT IT WAS THE SECRETARY WHO CALLED ON HIM AT HIS HOTEL AND NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND. CALVANI SAID, "IN THE FIVE YEARS I HAVE BEEN FOREIGN MINISTER OF VENEZUELA, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME AN AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE HAS CALLED ON ME."

4. I ASKED CALVANI IF IN FACT THE TWO ADECO OBSERVERS ON THE DELEGATION HAD BEEN GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE, AND HE SAID THAT THEY HAD INDEED SERVED AS WORKING MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION. HOWEVER, I AM INCLINED TO TAKE THIS WITH A GRAIN OF SALT AS IN THE NEXT BREATH CALVANI SAID HE REGRETTED THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE FOR JAIME LUSINCHI OR LUIS ESTEBEN REY, THE TWO ADECO REPRESENTATIVES, TO MEET WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER. RATHER LAMELY CALVANI EXPLAINED THAT WHEN HE AND HIS OTHER DELEGATES MET WITH THE SECRETARY, HE PERFORCE HAD TO INCLUDE THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS AND FORMER AMBASSADOR SOSA; AND SINCE THE SECRETARY WAS ATTENDED BY ONLY TWO OR THREE OTHER OFFICIALS, HE FELT IT NOT PROPER TO OVERLOAD THE VENEZUELAN REPRESENTATION. I GATHER, THEREFORE, THAT NEITHER LUSINCHI NOR LUIS ESTEBEN REY MET THE SECRETARY.

5. CALVANI SAID HE THOUGHT THE MEETING AT ATLANTA APRIL 17 CAME PERHAPS A BIT TOO SOON BUT ADMITTED THAT AT LEAST IT HAD THE ADVANTAGE OF CONTINUING THE MOMENTUM GENERATED AT MEXICO. HE SEEMED HOPEFUL THAT THESE ONWARD DISCUSSIONS OF THE AGENDA ESTABLISHED AT BOGOTA WOULD LEAD TO FRUITFUL RESULTS BUT STRESSED EMPHATICALLY THAT HE HOPED THE ATLANTA MEETING WOULD NOT RESULT IN ANOTHER LONG COMMUNIQUE SIMILAR TO THE ACT OF TLATELOLCO. I WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED, IN VIEW OF VENEZUELA'S LONGSTANDING CONTROVERSY WITH GUYANA, WHEN CALVANI SPOKE WARMLY OF RAMPHAL'S USEFUL CONTRIBUTION IN THE PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS AMONG VARIOUS MINISTERS WHICH
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LED TO FINAL AGREEMENT ON THE TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE OF TLATELOLCO.
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Message Attributes

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